



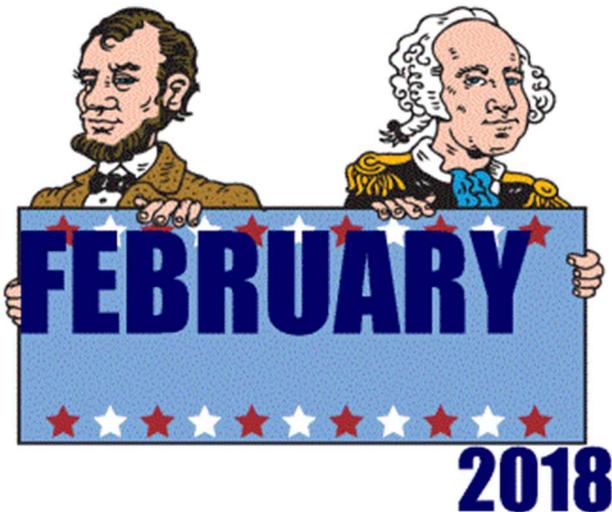
Dates to remember

- February 13 – Shrove Pancake Supper
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday
- February 18 – First Sunday of Lent
- February 21 – Soup & Book Study
- February 24 – Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers
- February 25 – Annual Business Meeting
- February 28 – Compassion Sunday

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ABCUSA
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Note from Editor: My apologies to Pastor Sharon and to all for late submission. I over extended myself and have been racing against the clock. And intermittent internet did not help the situation or my frustration.

The Pastor's Ponderings

Will the winter ever end? At least that's how it seems, doesn't it? We seem to be stuck in a weather pattern that brings us snow and sub-zero temperatures alternating with moderate temperatures accompanied by rain. All but the most diehard snow lovers are thinking longingly of the lazy, hazy days of seeking shade and a cold drink in July. We think about our church family and friends who have moved south and are enjoying the warm days in Florida, and we think about moving south ourselves. We dream of perhaps just taking a week or two to fly off to some warm locale. Take heart, the snow and ice will eventually melt, and we will once again bask in spring sunshine and dust off those sandals that now sit in a heap in the closet next to the boots that have temporarily replaced them.

Fortunately, we are all warm and dry; unlike so many in our area who have no place to call home this winter. As the weather rages and the temperatures drop, teams of dedicated workers go out into the streets cities like Hartford and New Haven, trying to locate those who live in tents, under bridges, and on park benches. Resources for the homeless and hungry are stretched thin in shelters and soup kitchens now that the popular donation times of Thanksgiving and Christmas are over and budget cuts have taken their toll on services to the least of these.

Our church family has always been keenly aware of those in need of help in our community. We collect food monthly for Southington Community Services and half of our Christmas offering when to their fuel fund. We regularly participate as volunteers at Bread for Life, as well as participating in their food drives in the fall and spring. These non-profit organizations, among others supported through our Outreach budget, are a lifeline for both individuals and families in our area who otherwise would go without food, shelter and heat.

When you do your weekly grocery shopping, try to remember to pick up some extra cans of soup, breakfast cereal, rice, canned beans, spaghetti sauce, pasta, macaroni and cheese, or tuna; almost any non-perishable item can be used prepare meals at Bread for Life or distributed by Southington Community Services to families who might

otherwise go hungry. It doesn't take much time or money, but if we each give a little, we can make a difference.

Faithfully,

Pastor Sharon



Restock the SHELVES

Compassion Sunday
month by month schedule:

January: breakfast items

February: PB & J

March: soup and stews

April: breakfast items

May: pasta, sauce, mac and cheese

June: PB&J & tuna fish

July: healthy snacks

August: breakfast foods

September: cleaning and personal hygiene supplies

October: soups and stews

November: beverages

December: miscellaneous

This is for everyone who may have missed Lauren's Children's Story in January about rewriting Ephesians 6: 14-17. Here is her new rendition after seeing all the teens who refuse to wear layers of coats, scarves, mittens and hats during the winter season - **this is the new 'armor of God':**

**So stand firm. Wrap the scarf of truth around your neck.
Button up the down jacket of righteousness.
Protect your feet with the boots of the good news of peace.
Also, wear the mittens of faith; with them you can throw snowballs at the evil one.
Put on the knit cap of salvation.
And snuggle into the long johns of the Holy Spirit.**

She ended with: 'this sounds silly, but think of this - God has given us His truth, righteousness and Gospel. He has blessed us with salvation, faith and the Holy Spirit. They won't help us, won't protect us, if we leave them in the closet, if we choose not to wear them every day.'

Editorial Note: Hummmm,,,,these Children's Stories certainly ring true for the adults as well!!

- Check out our bulletin board in the Narthex. We have posted many letters of thanks from the individuals and organizations we have supported with your mission contributions this year.



- In January, we collected contributions for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fund. We received the following letter from our own retired minister, Rev. Gordon Swan, as a thank you for your support over the past years.

Oh dear FBC Southington, how very marvelous you are to me, by granting me during these 43 years, the honor and privilege of sharing with you your very significant life, ministry, and mission. You have kept in touch in so many kind, practical, and prayerful ways. You have put up and hung in there with me, and thank God, in my foibles you have for-given me. What a great joy to be together in the Body of Christ! Now through the MMBB ANNUAL OFFERING you thank me and many. Let me tell you, yes you already know, but it is so good to raise it up and celebrate the great pleasure there is in being thanked any time, especially for me in retirement. Everyone wants to be appreciated and not forgotten: Pastors too! So from the bottom of my heart, for your generous participation in this special offering which makes me and many feel so good, on behalf of all the ABCUSA retirees: THANK YOU! You and the offering mean, in so many ways, the world to me! I LOVE YOU! THANK YOU!
Gordon Swan

Winter warmth from the heart

Our Mitten Tree was well-decorated this season with dozens of donations of



mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks - all which were donated at the end of January to Southington Community Services for our neighbors in need. Thank you to all for your generosity!



- Church World Service Hygiene Kits

Our service project for the month of February will be to fill hygiene kits for Church World Service. Items to be included in the kit include:]

- One hand towel (not fingertip towels please)
- One wash cloth
- One wide tooth comb
- One nail clipper, any size
- 10 band aids
- One bar of soap, in package
- One toothbrush, in sealed package
- \$2 to cover shipping

Check out the picture of the number of kits we donated last year - let's try to increase the number this year!



Hospital auxiliary hosts wreath fundraiser

In December, First Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall was filled with creative crafters making wreaths during a fundraiser benefiting the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Bradley Memorial Auxiliary. Almost 80 women enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship, and took home wreath centerpieces.

Our annual service honoring **Rev. Dr. Martin**

Luther King Jr., was held this year on Sunday morning, January 14th. With the theme “**Continue to Serve,**” it was an inspiring and well-attended event. **Guest speakers were Missy Cipriano and Janet Mellon.** Missy, true to her Baptist background, spoke eloquently of the inspirational words of



Rev. Dr. King and described the services and volunteer opportunities offered by Bread for Life. Janet Mellon followed and shared some of the work of Southington Community Services, as well as her observations from a fair housing perspective, that racism persists in our communities. Wonderfully moving special music was provided by Rev. Christopher Adams, ‘Singing Chaplain,’ who currently serves at Covenant House for Children. In addition, the two middle school students, Tia Guay and Reilly Jaruis, and their families were present to be honored again by Pastor Sharon Holt and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Timothy Connellan. These two students had been presented the MLK awards earlier in the week at

their school assemblies, and it was an honor to have them in attendance at this service as well. Following worship, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a light luncheon and reception and enjoyed conversing with our many guests. We were pleased by the attendance and the response to this new Sunday morning format.



The Baptisms of Jesse Sewell & Lynn Saucier



MEMORIAL POINSETTAS



Asklar and Chubet Families
in memory of Lena "Nana"
Dow

Ernie & Barbara
Burkhardt in memory of
Ethel & Ernest Burkhardt
and Donald Burkhardt

Lynn Saucier in memory
of my mum, Ann Lavin

John & Bernadette
Galayda in memory of
Margaret & John
Galayda Sr.

Gworek Family in memory of Ted & David Gworek

Gworek Family in memory of Al & Mildred Bassett

Charles & Gene Hilton in honor of our
grandchildren

Sharon Kupiec in memory of William "Skip"
Parker given by his wife

In memory of Lucy Lee with love from her
grandchildren

Shirley Mason in memory of the Mason & Adams
Families

Bill & Barbara McKay in honor of our beloved
grandchildren

The Olore Family in memory of Edward
Schellhammer

The Olore Family in memory of Dr. Louis Olore

Nik & Stefan Paneczko in memory of Judith F.
Barrows

The Shaw Family in memory of Al Shaw

Marilyn White in memory of Brent Adams & Henry
White

Gifts

Asklar and Chubet Families in memory of Lena
"Nana" Dow

Lee in memory of Ron with love

Ernie & Barbara Burkhardt in honor of our loved
ones

Ginni in memory of Gert & Ken Butler

McKay Family in memory of our beloved parents

Betty & Warren Porter in memory of Emma & John
Haskell and Alma & Ken Porter

"Thank You!"

During the week of December 11th we served 300 meals
to our in-house clients and seniors. This was done with
the help of Walter Jones, Barbara McKay, Pastor Sharon
Holt, Marvin Choquette, Ginni Butler, Darlene Steele
and Gene Hilton.

Thank you for your help and being there when
needed. We appreciate your help.

Our next time to serve will be the week of March 5.

Gene Hilton for the week of May 2



START YOUR SPRING CLEANING EARLY

To benefit First Baptist with this new fundraiser, On Friday March 9 and Sat. March 10th we will collect items listed below and then deliver them to Savers who will weigh our bags and boxes full of goods then make a donation by paying us by the pound.

Gently used and clean donations are greatly appreciated. Clothing, shoes, towels, bedding, accessories, kitchen items, knickknacks, sporting goods, CDs, DVDs, electrical items, toys and games are all acceptable donations.

Invite your extended family and friends to join you in your quest for organization!

Friday, March 9, from 3pm to 7pm

Saturday, March 10, from 9am to 12pm.



SAVE THE DATE:

**SPUD
NIGHT**

Saturday, May 5th, will be our annual SPUD NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION from 5:30 to 7 pm. Spread the word!



- 1 Phil Heim
- 2 Kathryn Austin
- 3 Julia Graikoski
- 4 Rudy Cabata
- 8 Ted Cabata, Gary Lamy
- 12 Warren Potter
- 14 Tracey Heim, Caleigh Cunningham
- 21 Lily Dixon
- 22 Sarah Strosahl
- 25 Shirley Mason
- 27 Marvin Choquette



- 6 Gene & Charles Hilton
- 10 JoAnn & John Myska
- 27 Linda & Tom Salzer